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Approved For Release 2003/02/27 : CIA-RDP79B01709A001400050007-6

NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

29 November 1973

MEMORANDUM:

SUBJECT : Current Need for Middle East Photo Reconnaissance

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1. Intelligence community components have identified the following specific substantive problems against which a recommended GIANT REACH mission would be directed.

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2. No information has been identified in the satellite materials which generates an urgent need for immediate follow-up photography. The main substantive problems which would benefit from current GIANT REACH photography are the following:

a. Coverage of the Duma area near Damascus continues to be inconclusive as to the presence or absence of Soviet combat units. High-resolution coverage with the SR-71 tech objective camera plus the additional comparative coverage that would be obtained may provide insight on this question, although it cannot be guaranteed.

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WARNING NOTICE
SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES
AND METHODS INVOLVED

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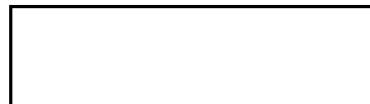
c. The satellite coverage continues to be inconclusive on SCUD activity. Additional coverage would provide some possibility of providing data on this problem.

3. The primary value of the GIANT REACH mission at this time would be to provide a very current update of the region at a time when conditions in the region remain fragile. The next increment of satellite photography will

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4. On balance, if there are no political reasons for avoiding reconnaissance overflight of the region, community components would recommend a GIANT REACH mission during the coming week. DoD elements are pressing hardest for such a mission. There are, however, no identified specific problems for which there is an identified current critical need for GIANT REACH coverage.



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MEMORANDUM FOR: National Intelligence Officer
for the Middle East

Sam:

Attached is a review of the current need for Middle East photo reconnaissance. As you will see, it boils down to a question of whether there are political reasons for avoiding an overflight in the region. If these are minimal, the community consensus would be to have a GIANT REACH mission to provide current information at a time when there are many uncertainties about the situation in the area.

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MEMORANDUM FOR: DDI

Ed:

FYI attached is the memo sent to
[redacted] this morning concerning
need for Middle East photo recce. I
also discussed it with him. We also
reviewed its content at today's COMIREX
meeting.

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[redacted]

29 November 1973
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